Fall in international crude oil prices

428. SHRI R.C. SINGH:
SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a fall in the international crude oil prices from the record high of 147.25 dollar a barrel in July to 111 dollar in August;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has any plan to review the global crude oil price scenario and its impact on domestic oil prices and accordingly cut the fuel prices in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Indian basket of crude oil touched an all time high of $142.04 per barrel on 03/07/2008. The international price of crude oil has softened since then. The average price of Indian basket of crude oil was $113.05 per barrel in August'08.

(c) and (d) In spite of the recent fall in the international oil prices, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) continue to suffer substantial under-recoveries on the marketing of sensitive petroleum products namely; Petrol, Diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG. The under-recoveries of OMCs based on refinery gate prices applicable as on 01.10.2008 for PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG and 16.10.2008 for Petrol and Diesel are as under:

PDS Kerosene	Rs/Litre	28.07
Domestic LPG	Rs/Cyl.	322.14
Petrol	Rs/Litre	2.37
Diesel	Rs/Litre	6.45

The prices of crude oil and petroleum products in the international market fluctuate on daily. Government is closely monitoring the international oil prices and will continue to protect the interests of consumers.

Development of beach tourism

429. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to develop beach tourism project at Shamuka near Puri;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to be set up under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, *inter-alia* indicating the Central help that is proposed to be given to the State to help successful execution of the project?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The development and promotion of tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Government/Union Territory Administrations themselves. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides funds on the basis of project proposals received from the State Government/Union Territory Administrations for grant of central financial assistance every year under the following schemes:-

(i) Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits.

(ii) Fairs and festivals/Events

(iii) Information Technology

As per information received from the Government of Orissa, the Shamuka Beach Project near Puri has been identified for development through Orissa Tourism Development Corporation under the state Public Private Partnership (PPP) policy.

No proposal for central financial assistance to the project has been submitted by the Government of Orissa to the Ministry of Tourism

The Ministry of Tourism, has sanctioned Tourism projects to the tune of Rs.2327.05 lakh and Rs. 3022.80 lakh for the State of Orissa in the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively.

Potential of tourism around Andaman and Nicobar Islands

430. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that none of the potential for tourism in and around the sea, on the long coastal line, long stretch of forest cover on either side of the road, hundred of separate islands in and around Andaman and Nicobar Islands have not been fully exploited and there is not plan to do it;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government machinery both State and Central are moving slow and ineffective but finding reasons and justifications for their lapses;

(c) whether there will be a quick plan of action to do something concrete to exploit and make use of this potential; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The development and promotion of places of tourist interest is primarily undertaken by the State Governments themselves. However, Ministry of Tourism provides funds on the basis of projects prioritized in consultation with the State Governments under various schemes.

Development and promotion of places of tourist interest in the country including the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is a continuous process. The Ministry of Tourism has been promoting places of tourist interest including Andaman and Nicobar Islands through the electronic and print media, India tourism Offices in India and abroad and through its website.